

**Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-18 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,330,709 in view of Wong et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,216,152.**

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-18 and 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Wong. Claim 1 recites:

A method of locating classes in a class path, the method comprising:  
*generating a cache of information relating to the classes in a class path;*  
requesting a search of the class path; and  
*searching the cache to satisfy the requested search.*

(emphasis added). Analogous features are recited in independent claims 5, 10, 17, 22 and 23 from which claims 2-3, 6, 9, 11-14, 18, 21 and 24 depend. Neither Johnson nor Wong disclose or suggest at least the italicized features.

Johnson is directed to solving the problem of persisting an *object* after a process has ended, *independent of the object's class or type* and does not disclose or suggest at least generating a cache of information *relating to the classes, requesting a search of the class path; or searching the cache to satisfy the requested search,* as required by Applicant's claim 1.

One of the problems encountered in persisting objects is that each executing process is assigned its own address space in memory. References (pointers) to objects stored in the address space are meaningful only to the executing process. Once the process has ended, the space is reclaimed for reuse, and any references that point to objects formerly stored in the address space are meaningless. Johnson solves this problem by storing objects that he wants to continue to refer to after a process has ended, in a memory space that is shared by a number of processes. In this way an object does not have to be defined as a member of a persistent class to be persisted. Intelligent reference objects translate addresses to facilitate access of target objects.

The Examiner directs Applicant's attention to column 12, lines 18-67, column 13, lines 1-6, column 15, lines 9-67 and column 16, lines 1-19 to teach "generating a cache of information relating to the classes", but these sections of Johnson instead describe how "when a client process makes a request to access a target object...the intelligent reference

object” performs the translation required to access the target object. (See column 12, lines 27-37). Intelligent reference objects (IRO), not class information, is cached in an IRO cache.

Wong is directed to a system and method that enables media decoding software to be downloaded from a network along with the media data so that, for example, a client who does not have persistent storage or does not have the proper decoder in persistent storage can still play multimedia content. Wong does not disclose or suggest at least a *cache of information relating to the classes in a class path or searching the cache to satisfy the requested search* (for pathname). A class path vector, including the source location of the incoming media data, is searched to find the decoder in much the same way as is described in the background section discussion of prior art in Applicant’s application.

Even supposing that Johnson and Wong in combination disclosed the features of Applicant’s claim 1, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be inclined to refer to the references yet alone to combine them. Both Johnson and Wong are directed to the solving of different problems than is Applicant’s invention, and neither of their solutions would work if applied to Applicant’s problem space.

Claim 15 recites:

A class path manager comprising:  
means for receiving requests to search a multi element class path for classes;  
means for transferring such requests through a wrapper associated with each element to invoke element specific search methods.

Neither Johnson nor Wong, taken alone or in combination disclose or suggest all the features of Applicant’s claim 15. The Examiner directs Applicant’s attention to column 12, lines 18-67, column 13, lines 1-67, column 15, lines 9-67 and column 16, lines 1-19; column 19, lines 9-34; col. 11 lines 28-67, column 4 lines 26-36, column 10, lines 22-58, to teach “means for receiving requests to search a multi element [class path] for classes” and “means for transferring such requests through a wrapper associated with each element to invoke specific methods” but these sections of Johnson instead describe how “when a client process makes a request to access a target object...the intelligent reference object” performs the translation required to access the target object. (See column 12, lines 27-37). These sections also describe how several objects are defined to persist objects in a shared address space.

Wong does not disclose or suggest at least a “means for transferring such requests through a wrapper associated with each element to invoke element specific search methods”. A class path vector, including the source location of the incoming media data, is searched to find the decoder in much the same way as is described in the background section discussion of prior art in Applicant’s application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not obvious over Johnson in view of Wong.

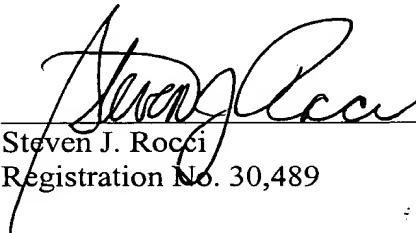
**Rejection of Claims 4, 7-8, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,330,709 in view of Wong et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,216,152 and further in view of Becker, U.S. Patent No. 5,937,411.**

For the reasons explained above, Applicant submits that claims 4, 7-8, and 19-20 are allowable as depending from allowable claims 1, 5 and 17.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 23 and claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16, 18-21 and 23 which depend therefrom are patentable. All of the pending claims being allowable over the prior art, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to reconsider the above rejections, and to issue an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven J. Rocci  
Registration No. 30,489

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Woodcock Washburn LLP  
One Liberty Place – 46<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100